



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Barbara Green



Last month, I talked about what SFMS does for the local club. At the Annual Meeting in September, we voted on a benefit for the younger members. The SFMS voted to pay for subscriptions to Mini Miners Monthly from

Diamond Dan Publications for each club with Junior Members. This is a newsletter for Junior Rockhounds. The publication has special activities as well as a lot of information written for the kids.

A website to explore for Junior Rockhounds is www.kidsloverocks.com. This is an education resource for young rock and mineral collectors. Use these materials to help your Junior members learn more about a hobby that they can be involved in for the rest of their lives.

If you go to the Junior Rockhound of the Year section on the SFMS web page, (http://www.amfed.org/sfms/junior_of_the_year.html) you will find "Organization and Conduct of a Junior Rockhound Club" written by Dr. Albert S. Dix. Bonita Harris, SFMS Junior Rockhound Chairperson for the last several years has put this into a .pdf format that you can download and print out.

If you don't have children in your club, think about ways to bring them in. Contact your local schools and see if they would like your club to come in and do a presentation. Science teachers usually appreciate this extra material to work with their Earth Science and Geology programs.

Another way to encourage families to join your club is to set up a booth at local craft shows. Most times, they will have booths available for public information. Have samples available that you can give children or have small affordable rocks that parents can purchase. A geode cracker always gets lots of attention. Most kids love rocks and parents appreciate the chance to have activities that include the whole family.

Bringing families into your group insures that your club will continue to grow. There are a lot of valuable resources in each club and it helps everyone to be able to share these.

I want to take the time to thank Bonita for all of the hard work that she has done in the past. She has resigned this year, and we will miss her dedication to the SFMS youth.

Now it's time to talk about what you can do for SFMS. We are looking for someone who is willing to take on this position. If you feel that working with young folk is right for you, please send me a message by e-mail (greentop@bellsouth.net) or call me.

CARL'S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY



This is the ninth issue of the Lodestar; we will not publish an edition in November so you'll see the final tenth edition in early December.

Our lead article this month concerns a recent study published by the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado on how the earth got its gold.

Web site competition details and application deadlines for 2012 are covered on Page 5, while the Application for 2011 Junior of the Year starts on Page 6.

If you have any interest in judging lapidary competition, please take note of Page 10. More judging seminars will be offered as time goes on, so please visit the AFMS web site for additional details

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THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.



A Non-Profit, Non-Commercial, Non-Political Organization and Regional Federation of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

PURPOSE:

To bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts and Crafts in the Southeast part of the United States.

OBJECTIVE:

To cooperate with similar Federations to promote public interest in the Earth Sciences and the conservation of natural resources.

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Articles for the Dec 2011 Lodestar are due by Nov 25, 2011.

DMC FIELD TRIPS

Nov 5, 2011: Graves Mountain, GA. Sponsored by the Aiken G&M Society. See www.aikengmfs.org.

Field trips are open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs/societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the general public are NOT invited to these or any DMC program field trips.

UPCOMING SHOWS

November 11-13, 2011: Pascagoula, MS - The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society. Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. \$3 admission, children under age 13 are free. Contact Jim Darnell @ (228) 806-1039 [cell] or (228) 875-2310 [home].

November 18-20, 2011: Columbia, SC - Columbia Gem & Mineral Society. 44th Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Road, Columbia, SC (exit 106A off of I-26). Hours: Fri 10-7, Sat 10-6, & Sun 12-5. Admission: \$4 adults, children under 12 free, and all military and their dependents free on Sunday. Call 803-736-9317 or see www.cgams.org.

November 19-20, 2011: West Palm Beach, FL- Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. 45th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. Hours: Sat 9-6 & Sun 10-5. Admission: \$7 adults, children under 12 free, & 2 day pass \$10. Free parking. Contact Barbara Ringhiser bar5678@aol.com 561-588-5458 or Jeff Ursillo bnmjjeff@aol.com 561-706-9549. See www.gemandmineral.cc

November 25-27, 2011: Mobile, AL - Mobile Rock and Gem Society. Mobile County Fairgrounds, Cody Rd & Zeigler Rd. Hours: Friday 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 10-5. Admission \$3. Contact Jerry Shirey @ (251)458-2867.

December 2-4, 2011: Montgomery, AL - Montgomery G&M Society. 41st Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery. Hours: Fri 9-6; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5. Free Admission and Parking. Contact Jane Barkley, (334) 277-2722.

December 10-11, 2011: Franklin, TN - Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society. 31st "Earth Treasures" Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale + Faceter's Frolic, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 2415 Long Lane, Franklin (20 miles south of Nashville exit 61 on I-65 and turn east on to Peytonsville Road, drive 1/3 mile & turn left onto Long Lane). Hours: Sat 9-6 and Sun 10-5. Admission: \$4 adults, 2-day pass \$6, students 18 or less \$1, children under 12 free with adult, scouts in uniform free. Visit www.mtgms.org or www.facetersfrolic.org for more info. Contact John Stanley (615) 885-5704.

February 11-12, 2012: Merritt Island, FL.- The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Symphony of Gemstones Festival, Kiwanis Island Park, 951 Kiwanis Island (on Hwy 520 west of Walmart). Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5. Adults \$4/day. Demos, door prizes, & lapidary exhibits. Contact show chair Ray Huntington 321-799-8536.

March 2-4, 2012: St. Petersburg, FL - The Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society. 42nd Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale, Minnreg Building 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free parking. Contact Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279 or e-mail contact SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com. See <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html>

April 28-29, 2012: Memphis, TN - Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show "The Earth Wide Open". Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A and B-wings 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN. Hours: Sat 9-6 and Sun 10-5. Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00. Scouts free. Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis. Contact W.C. McDaniel 901-274-7706 or email w.c.mcd@att.net

Please Note

To ensure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the Lodestar Editor: Carl Talbott, 216 Spring View Drive, Murphy, NC 28906 or e-mail dtalbott@bellsouth.net. SFMS clubs/

MINERALOGY

Huge Asteroids Brought Gold to Infant Earth, Study Says *Pluto-size space rocks may have put precious metals in the mantle.*

By Brian Handwerk, National Geographic News

Just as wise men are said to have brought gold to baby Jesus, huge asteroids may have brought gold and other precious metals to infant Earth, new research suggests.

Scientists have long known that there's a mysterious amount of siderophile ("iron-loving") metals in Earth's mantle. Such metals, including gold, tend to affiliate with iron in their liquid forms. The best explanation has been that some sort of space object brought the elements to the planet just after it formed its core, but the exact nature of the impactor has been a matter of debate. Based on computer simulations, the new study says that a small number of enormous, random impacts roughly 4.5 billion years ago are the sources of Earth's iron-loving materials.

These impactors were rocky objects left over from our solar system's planet-formation phase. The largest one that hit Earth was roughly the size of Pluto—up to 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) wide, the study suggests. And young Earth wasn't the only recipient: Cataclysmic collisions delivered iron-loving metals to the moon and Mars around the same time, the study authors say. What's more, the impacts may have been the source of water on the moon.

"These elements are telling us about what was hitting these worlds in sort of the 'last gasp' growth spurt that they had," said study leader William Bottke, of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

Impact Odds Like Rolling the Dice.

Moon rocks brought back during the Apollo missions led to the now widely accepted theory that the moon formed when a Mars-size object crashed into early Earth. Energy from the impact would have spurred the still forming Earth to develop its mostly iron core. When this happened, iron-loving metals should have followed molten iron down from the planet's mantle and into the core.

But we know that gold and other iron-lovers are found in modest abundances in Earth's mantle. (Explore Earth's insides.) Using a mathematical approach called Monte Carlo analysis, Bottke's team calculates that iron-loving metals were delivered in a limited number of massive impacts that just happened to miss the moon. In cross section, the moon is about one-twentieth Earth's size, so one might expect the moon to have one-twentieth as many precious metals in its mantle, if the materials were delivered by impacts. That's because, if millions of impacts had occurred, the odds of objects hitting Earth and the moon would likely have evened out to sustain the 1-to-20 ratio.

Instead, the moon has one-thousandth as many iron-loving metals as Earth. According to the study, published Dec 9, 2010 in the journal *Science*, those odds can be explained if a limited number of massive impactors were involved. A lucky roll of the dice could easily have meant that a huge object missed the smaller moon but smashed into Earth—creating the metal discrepancies we see today.

Asteroid Belt Puts Proof in the Pudding?

"It's a cute result, but how do you prove such a thing?" Bottke said. The key, he thinks, is to look at the existing remnants of planet formation in our solar system, aka asteroids.

In the inner asteroid belt, the three largest space rocks—Ceres, Pallas, and Vesta—range from 300 to 600 miles (483 to 966 kilometers) across. These bodies are much larger than the biggest of the rest, which measure only 150 miles (241 kilometers) across, and no "in between" sizes seem to exist.

"Most of the mass is in the biggest objects," Bottke said. "It's a top-heavy size distribution that is consistent with the kinds of populations needed to make what we see on the Earth and moon." Martian craters tell a similar tale. The sizes of the oldest impact basins on the red planet appear consistent with a theory that Mars was hit by a population of space objects dominated by a few large asteroids, Bottke said.

Weak Links in Chain of Speculation?

While the theory is intriguing, planetary scientist Jay Melosh of Purdue University said he isn't quite convinced. "This is a darn good group of people," Melosh said of the study's authors. "But I find this theory really speculative, and I think some of the links in this chain of speculation are quite weak." For instance, Melosh notes—and the study authors agree—such massive space rocks would themselves have formed cores, which would have trapped their gold and other iron-loving metals.

"The problem, then, is how the impactors' cores gave up their gold and re-implanted it into the mantles of the Earth and Mars," he said. "The only way this can happen is if the metallic iron of the impactor core is oxidized"—but that would require an abundant source of oxygen, which most models of early Earth don't include. "So what they need to provide is some mechanism for getting those elements out of the [asteroids'] cores and into the mantle of the Earth," he said. "A mechanism for that is not at all easy and very hard to understand." The study addresses this problem with simulations showing that the projectiles may have plowed entirely through early Earth—still largely molten—and come out the other side in highly-fragmented states, raining debris back down on the surface over an extended period.

"This allows big collisions to deliver lots of material, but in a manner not so different from small-body accretion," study leader Bottke said. But Purdue's Melosh also thinks it's possible gold exists in Earth's mantle due to unknown but orderly chemical processes and not random collisions. "Observations show that concentrations of these elements on Mars and Earth are about the same, and the moon is a lot lower," he said. "What the model does is make this a complete accident, a matter of who got hit by what and when."

2011 SFMS Web Site Contest Winners

Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster

SFMS Web Site competition results were announced at the 2011 SFMS Annual Meeting. In first place with a total of 94.5 points was the Mobile Gem and Mineral Society. Second place went to the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches with 93 points out of 100. The Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society placed third with 91 points, and the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society came in fourth with 90 points. Fifth place went to Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society scoring 89.5 points. Congratulations to the web masters of these sites for their continuing good works.

2012 AFMS/SFMS Web Site Contest

Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster

This is the fourth year for the AFMS Web Site Contest. I hope that word about the contest is growing and that we'll have even more entries in the 2012 contest. The primary value of this contest lies in the comments that each judge writes as he or she goes through the Web site looking for the items listed on the Score Sheet. The judges are instructed to identify what the site does well as well as to comment on what can be done better. The goal of the contest is to help the Web sites better serve their clubs.

Webmasters wishing to enter their Web sites into the contest should download the 2012 AFMS Web Site Contest Entry Form, the 2012 AFMS Web Site Contest Score Sheet, and the 2012 AFMS Web Site Contest Score Sheet Guidelines from the SFMS or AFMS Web site. **(The 2012 versions of these forms MUST be used—NOT the forms from last year.)** Download the three 2012 Web Site Contest documents and read the 2012 AFMS Web Site Contest Score Sheet Guidelines very carefully. It thoroughly explains what makes a good Web site and what the judges will be looking for. To enter the contest, the webmaster needs to fill out the 2012 Entry Form completely and complete the information requested in the top part of the 2012 Score sheet. These forms can be filled-in on your computer and saved to your hard drive.

APPLICATION FOR JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2011
Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

NOTE: All participants receive an award, with special recognitions for the two top honorees.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

I, _____, certify that I am a junior* rockhound member in good standing of the _____ (Gem and Mineral Club/Society), which is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). I am a paid member throughout the calendar year 2011. All of the points on this application are for activities between November 1, 2010 and October 31, 2011. All entries are true and correct.

** Each club may set its own age limits, but for SFMS purposes, a junior is defined as a member under 18 years old.*

PRESIDENT OF THE SPONSORING CLUB

I _____, as President of the sponsoring Club believe that all the points recorded in this application are true and correct.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31, 2010
ALL MATERIAL MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 7, 2010

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:
Bonita L. Harris, *SFMS Youth Resources Chairman*
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695
Telephone: 251.865.9157 bonitaharris@mchsi.com

THE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR (JOY) WINNER AND PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN
THE DECEMBER 2011 LODESTAR

SFMS JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2011 ACTIVITY CRITERIA

	<i>For clarification, you may list, identify, or describe activities and the points on a separate sheet(s) of paper. For example: Attended two adult meetings, May 2011 (5 points), July 2011 (2 points)</i>	Points	Total Points
1	Junior member of _____ (Rock and Mineral Club/ Society), a member of SFMS (5 points per club) * Each club may set its own age limits, but for SFMS purposes, a junior is defined as a member under 18 years old.	5 x	
2	Attended adult meeting (First adult meeting only counts as 5 points.) See #3 and #4. <i>No junior meeting, each additional adult meeting (5 points each)</i>	5 x 1 5 x	
3	Attended additional adult meeting (2 points each)	2 x	
4	Attended junior meetings/workshops (5 points each)	5 x	
5	Served as an officer position or committee member in local adult or junior society	5 x	
6	Presented in local adult or junior society (5 points each presentation)	5 x	
7	Visited gem and mineral club shows, other than own club or society Rock, gem, fossil or earth museum, national park, or other lapidary-related exhibit <i>(Obtain and show ticket or program. 10 points each)</i>	10 x	
8	Attended field trips: junior club, local club, Dixie Mineral Council-sponsored, family held trip, or field trip other than those listed above that are related to the SFMS mission (15 points each)	15 x	
9	Demonstrated the "Each One Teach One" program For example: gem trees, wire wrapping (10 points per occasion)	10 x	
10	Sponsored a new junior or adult member (5 points per person)	5 x	
11	Attended a meeting to introduce new member (5 points per person)	5 x	
12	Presented hobby at school or in other groups. (5 points per occasion)	5 x	
13	Exhibited in school, regional or state science fairs related to our hobby or	20 x	
14	Exhibited in member's club show	20 x	
15	Worked at member's annual club show (5 points per verified hour)	5 x	

SFMS JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2011 ACTIVITY CRITERIA (con't)

PUBLICATIONS			
<i>Note: Articles accepted by the Editor, but not yet published by October 2011 can be counted for either 2011 or 2012, but for one year only.</i>			
1	Published in member's club bulletin: a report on junior club meeting, workshop, or field trip <i>(10 points per article)</i>	10 x	
17	Published in member's club bulletin: well-researched educational article on some phase of our hobby or the earth sciences. <i>(25 points per article) Accurate information, references required</i>	25 x	
18	Won regional or national award for articles published in a club bulletin <i>(25 points for each such recognition)</i> <i>Note: You may receive points for publication of an article one year and receive points for the same article for recognition the next year</i>	25 x	
TOTAL POINTS			

TIE BREAKER

Describe any other hobby-related information regarding publications, activities, or recognitions achieved this past year that might help us evaluate your enthusiasm for winning this JOY award.

Use additional sheet of paper, if necessary.

BE SAFE – BE WELL

Don Monroe & Linda Behr - Safety Committee

Soreness and Possible Nerve Damage

This physical problem or injury does not have a particular name that I know of, and I refer to it as “Billfold Bottom”. It is almost exclusively a complaint experienced by men since women do not often carry a wallet or billfold in their back pocket. Women can, however, experience neck or shoulder pain caused by carrying a heavy purse or handbag often. While this is not the same issue we are discussing, the results are somewhat similar. When a man carries a wallet in the same pocket for an extended period of time, like many days, pressure on the buttock can irritate nerves in that area, and the pain can become significant. This is particularly likely when the person drives or sits for long periods of time. It has been noted by some medical authorities that this nerve irritation can lead to nerve damage and can become serious.

Very few men are going to be comfortable if they are not carrying some sort of billfold. Now honestly guys, do you want to be without proper identification? At the bare minimum can you be happy or legal or safe without your driver’s license? Won’t you be more at ease if you have some sort of charge card? I suspect that the majority of us carry too much “junk” with us such as your library card, your business card or cards, various membership cards, maybe a picture or two, and of course, money. Now some of this “stuff” is vital but we could take time to clean out our wallet occasionally.

If you have experienced “billfold bottom” or wish to avoid this situation, consider some of the following solutions.

- Use a thinner billfold.
- Periodically change the way you carry your billfold by switching pockets.
- As I mentioned above, clean out some of the junk.
- Reduce the number of credit-type cards you carry. It has been recommended by some security experts that we should carry fewer cards of this type.
- Don’t carry your business cards in your billfold.

- Don’t carry other people’s business cards in your billfold.
- Use a money clip. I have always found that this is handy for your smaller bills. I also like a money clip when traveling in other countries to keep the “foreign” currency separate from my U.S. bills.
- Use a small notebook to collect information and receipts when traveling.

SOME PERSONAL COMMENTS ON SFMS WORKSHOPS

By Addy De Pietro, Florida State Director

We have been teaching SFMS workshops for 20 years. The workshops used to have waiting lists for classes with attendance over 100 students at Wildacres and capacity at William Holland. We realize that money is tight for many people right now, but the weeks before and after SFMS this October have had over 100 students.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? Same accommodations, same tuition, same teachers, same cook. William Holland has a campground and a walk-in price for locals. The leaves are turning in October and people come to the Young Harris, Georgia area just to see them in all their splendor. The local motels are usually full at this time, and I’m pretty sure \$310.00 will just about cover lodging in a motel for 6 nights.

At our William Holland workshops, one gets room, meals, and a class for \$310.00. The only extra charge is a class fee for included consumables and in some classes materials for planned projects. This class fee is paid to the volunteer teacher.

Our SFMS Education Chair has introduced many new classes and teachers. The comradery and enthusiasm amongst attendees is something that has many returning to workshops every year.

Please send us any suggestions or comments as to how or what can be done to draw more students to our workshops as these programs are one of the best benefits SFMS has to offer it’s members.

1st AFMS JUDGES TRAINING SEMINAR AT A REGIONAL LOCAL SHOW

Dee Holland, AFMS Judges Training Chair

beauholland@centurytel.net

At the AFMS 2011 meeting in Syracuse, the Directors approved a three-year Judges Training program to “take it to the Regional Federation club shows”. Because of the rising cost of transportation for many of those who would like to attend this training, it was decided to try a different approach. The Reno Gem & Mineral Society of Reno, Nevada stepped up and offered their show site for this program in May 10-13, 2012. This will be the first AFMS Judges Training Seminar in a local regional setting.

You will have two options when attending this event. You can stay at the Holiday Inn, Sparks/ Reno Hotel (call or contact the Hotel at 1-775-358-6900 & tell them you are with the AFMS Judges Training Seminar) for a total cost of \$75. per night for a king-room or 2-queen room which includes taxes. Or you can make arrangements for camping space at the Reno Club’s show site, Reno Events Center (**this is a separate application and will be up on the amfed.org website as soon as the club has it ready**). (there is no camping at the hotel site, per city regulations)

If attending, you may bring an exhibit; once again, a separate application from the Reno Club is pending and will be on the amfed.org website as soon as possible (this Reno Club application may be on one application page with camping). The club has a LIMITED SUPPLY OF EXHIBIT CASES, but are on a “first come, first serve” basis.

As in the past, one person from each Regional Federation will receive a stipend of \$350 from AFMS to offset their expenses. The person receiving this will be determined by the Judges Training Chair from the applications received. This will not be paid until after the end of the class. All others who wish to attend will have to pay their own expenses. Everyone attending will have to pay \$20. for the classes which includes lunch Friday and Saturday. The Holiday Inn has a restaurant on the premises for breakfast and dinner.

We are fortunate in having Jay Bowman, who has done the class instruction since the inception of these training programs, again to be the instructor. Jay brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to this special event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 16, 2012. All applications received, will be confirmed by Dee Holland

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